

28 Physician

Physician's services, whether furnished in the office, the recipient's home, a hospital, a skilled nursing facility, or elsewhere, refer to services provided by a physician:

- Within the scope of practice of medicine or osteopathy as defined by state law; and
- By or under the personal supervision of an individual licensed under state law to practice medicine or osteopathy.

The policy provisions for physicians can be found in the *Alabama Medicaid Agency Administrative Code*, Chapter 6.

28.1 Enrollment

EDS enrolls physicians and issues provider contracts to applicants who meet the licensure and/or certification requirements of the state of Alabama, the Code of Federal Regulations, the *Alabama Medicaid Agency Administrative Code*, and the *Alabama Medicaid Provider Manual*. For the purpose of enrollment, a physician is defined as: a physician who is fully licensed and possesses a current license to practice medicine.

EDS also enrolls Physician Assistants (PA), Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners (CRNP), Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA), and Anesthesiology Assistants (AA) who are employed by a Medicaid enrolled physician. Physician-employed includes physicians practicing in an independent practice or in a group practice relationship.

Refer to Chapter 38, Anesthesiology, for more information on CRNA and AA services.

Refer to Chapter 2, Becoming a Medicaid Provider, for general enrollment instructions and information. Failure to provide accurate and truthful information or intentional misrepresentation might result in action ranging from denial of application to permanent exclusion.

Provider Number, Type, and Specialty

A provider who contracts with Medicaid as a physician is issued a nine-digit Alabama Medicaid provider number that enables the provider to submit claims and receive reimbursement for physician-related claims.

NOTE:

All nine digits are required when filing a claim.

Physicians are assigned a provider type of 01 (Physician). Physician-Employed Nurse Practitioners or Physician-Employed Physician Assistants are assigned a provider type of 06 (Physician-Employed Practitioners), and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists and Anesthesiology Assistants are assigned a provider type of 92 (CRNA).

Valid specialties for physicians and physician-employed practitioners are listed below:

| Specialty | Code |
|---|-------------|
| Allergy/Immunology | 03 |
| Anesthesiology | 05 |
| Anesthesiology Assistant | N7 |
| Cardiac surgery | S1 |
| Cardiovascular disease | 06 |
| Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist | C3 |
| Cochlear implant team | C9 |
| Colon and rectal surgery | S2 |
| Dermatology | 07 |
| EENT | XA |
| Emergency medicine | E1 |
| Endocrinology | E2 |
| EPSDT | E3 |
| Family practice | 08 |
| Gastroenterology | 10 |
| General practice | 01 |
| General surgery | 02 |
| Geriatrics | 38 |
| Hand surgery | 21 |
| Hematology | H2 |
| Infectious diseases | 55 |
| Internal medicine | 11 |
| Mammography | M7 |
| Neonatology | N1 |
| Nephrology | 39 |
| Neurological surgery | 14 |
| Neurology | 13 |
| Nuclear medicine | 36 |
| Nutrition | 40 |
| Obstetrics/Gynecology | 16 |
| Oncology | XI |
| Ophthalmology | 18 |
| Oral and maxillofacial surgery | SE |
| Orthopedic | X6 |
| Orthopedic surgery | 20 |
| Otorhinolaryngology | X9 |
| Pathology | 22 |
| Pediatrics | 37 |
| Physician-Employed Nurse Practitioner | N3 |
| Physician-Employed Physician Assistant | N6 |
| Plastic, reconstructive, cosmetic surgery | 24 |
| Primary care provider (not a screening provider but can refer patients) | AE |
| Proctology | 28 |
| Psychiatry | 26 |
| Pulmonary disease | 29 |
| Radiology | 30 |
| Rheumatology | R4 |
| Thoracic surgery | 33 |
| Urology | 34 |
| Vascular surgery | S4 |

Enrollment Policy for Physicians

Providers (in-state and out-of-state) who meet enrollment requirements are eligible to participate in the Alabama Medicaid Program. The PA or CRNP must send a copy of the prescriptive authority granted by the licensing board in order for the PA or CRNP to be added to the Provider License File for the purpose of reimbursing the pharmacist for the prescriptions written by the PA or CRNP. This copy must be sent to EDS Provider Enrollment, P.O. Box 244035, Montgomery, AL 36124.

EDS will not enroll physicians having limited licenses unless complete information as to the limitations and reasons are submitted in writing to the Provider Enrollment Unit for review and consideration for enrollment.

28.2 Benefits and Limitations

This section describes program-specific benefits and limitations. Refer to Chapter 3, Verifying Recipient Eligibility, for general benefit information and limitations.

Physicians are expected to render medically necessary services to Medicaid patients in the same manner and under the same standards as for their private patients, and bill the Alabama Medicaid Agency their usual and customary fee.

A physician enrolled in and providing services through an approved residency training program will be assigned a pseudo Medicaid license number, but may not bill for services performed as part of the residency training program. A pseudo Medicaid license number is required on written prescriptions issued to Medicaid recipients.

Supervising physicians may bill for services rendered to Medicaid recipients by residents enrolled in and providing services through (as part of) an approved residency training program. The following rules shall apply to physicians supervising residents as part of an approved residency training program:

- a. The supervising physician shall sign and date the admission history and physical progress notes written by the resident.
- b. The supervising physician shall review all treatment plans and medication orders written by the resident.
- c. The supervising physician shall be available by phone or pager.
- d. The supervising physician shall designate another physician to supervise the resident in his/her absence.
- e. The supervising physician shall not delegate a task to the resident when regulations specify that the physician perform it personally or when such delegation is prohibited by state law or the facility's policy.

Payments from Medicaid funds can be made only to physicians who provide the services; therefore, no reimbursement can be made to patients who may personally pay for the service rendered.

Reimbursement may be made to a physician submitting a claim for services furnished by another physician in the event there is a reciprocal arrangement as long as block 19 on the claim identifies the physician who actually furnished the service. Both physicians should be enrolled as Medicaid providers. The reciprocal arrangement may not exceed 14 days in the case of an informal arrangement or 90 continuous days in the case of an arrangement involving per diem or other fee-for-time compensation. Providers participating in a reciprocal arrangement should be enrolled with the Alabama Medicaid Agency.

The physician agrees when billing Medicaid for a service that the physician will accept as payment in full, the amount paid by Medicaid for that service, plus any cost-sharing amount to be paid by the recipient, and that no additional charge will be made. Conditional collections from patients, made before Medicaid pays, which are to be refunded after Medicaid pays, are not permissible. The physician may bill the patient, in addition to the cost-sharing fee, for services rendered when benefit limitations are exhausted for the year or when the service is a Medicaid non-covered benefit. If a provider routinely accepts a Medicaid assignment, he or she may not bill Medicaid or the recipient for a service he or she did not provide, i.e., missed or canceled appointment.

A hospital-based physician-employed by and paid by a hospital may not bill Medicaid for services performed for which the hospital is reimbursed. A hospital-based physician shall bill the Medicaid Program on a HCFA-1500, Health Insurance Claim Form or assign their billing rights to the hospital, which shall bill the Medicaid Program on a HCFA-1500 form. A hospital-based physician who is not employed by and paid by a hospital may bill Medicaid using a HCFA-1500 claim form.

A physician enrolled in a residency training program and whose practice is limited to the institution in which that resident is placed shall not bill Medicaid for services performed therein for which the institution is reimbursed through the hospitals' cost reports. For tracking purposes, these physicians will be assigned pseudo Medicaid license numbers.

Hospital-based physicians are reimbursed under the same general system as is used in Medicare. Bills for services rendered are submitted as follows:

- All hospital-based physicians, including emergency room physicians, radiologists, and pathologists, will bill Medicaid on a HCFA-1500 claim form, or assign their billing rights to the hospital, which shall bill Medicaid on a HCFA-1500 claim form.
- Physician services personally rendered for individual patients will be paid only on a reasonable charge basis (i.e., claims submitted under an individual provider number on a physician claim form). This includes services provided by a radiologist and/or pathologist.
- Reasonable charge services are: 1) personally furnished for a patient by a physician; 2) ordinarily require performance by a physician and; 3) contribute to the diagnosis or treatment of an individual patient.

NOTE:

If a provider routinely accepts Medicaid assignments, he/she may not bill Medicaid or the recipient for a service he/she did not provide, i.e., "no call" or "no show".

28.2.1 Physician-Employed Practitioner Services

Medicaid payment may be made for the professional services of the following physician-employed practitioners:

- Physician Assistants (PAs)
- Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners (CRNPs)

Nurse Practitioner is defined as a Registered Professional Nurse who is currently licensed to practice in the state, who meets the applicable State of Alabama requirements governing the qualifications of nurse practitioners.

Physician Assistant means a person who meets the applicable State of Alabama requirements governing the qualifications for assistants to primary care physicians.

Medicaid will make payment for services of Physician Assistants (PAs) and Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners (CRNPs) who are legally authorized to furnish services and who render the services under the supervision of an employing physician with payment made to the employing physician. Medicaid will not make payment to the PA or CRNP. Generally, CRNPs and PAs are reimbursed at 80% of the allowed amount for all services except lab and injectables, which should pay at 100%.

The employing physician must be a Medicaid provider in active status.

The PA or CRNP must enroll with Medicaid and receive an Alabama Medicaid provider number with the employing physician as the payee.

Covered services furnished by the PA or CRNP must be billed under the PA's or CRNP's name and Alabama Medicaid provider number.

The covered services for PAs and CRNPs are limited to injectable drugs, laboratory services in which the laboratory is CLIA certified to perform, and the CPT codes identified in Appendix O, CRNP & PA Services.

The office visits performed by the PA or CRNP count against the recipient's yearly benefit limitation.

The PA or CRNP may make physician-required visits to nursing facilities.

The PA or CRNP may not make physician-required inpatient visits to hospitals or other institutional settings to qualify for payment to the physician or to satisfy current regulations as physician visits.

The PA or CRNP may provide low complexity or straightforward medical decision-making services in the emergency room or as an assistant at surgery (identified surgical codes only) for reimbursement by Medicaid. See Appendix O for a list of covered services.

The employing-physician need not be physically present with the PA or CRNP when the services are being rendered to the recipient; however, the physician must be immediately available to the PA or CRNP for direct communication by radio, telephone, or telecommunication.

The PA's or CRNP's employing physician is responsible for the professional activities of the PA or CRNP and for assuring that the services provided are medically necessary and appropriate for the patient.

There shall be no independent, unsupervised practice by PAs or CRNPs.

28.2.2 Covered Services

In general, Medicaid covers physician services if the services meet the following conditions:

- Considered medically necessary by the attending physician
- Designated by procedure codes in the Physicians' Current Procedural Terminology (CPT), HCPCS or designated by special procedure codes created by Medicaid for its own use

This table contains details on selected covered services.

| Service | Coverage and Conditions |
|--|--|
| Anesthesia | Anesthesia is covered. See Chapter 38, Anesthesiology. |
| Artificial Eyes | Artificial eyes must be prescribed by a physician. |
| Computerized Axial Tomograph (CAT) Scans | CAT scans are covered as medically necessary. |
| Chiropractors | Chiropractic services are covered only for QMB recipients and for services referred directly as a result of an EPSDT screening. |
| Chromosomal Studies | Medicaid can pay for these studies on prospective mothers in an effort to identify conditions that could result in the birth of an abnormal child. |
| Circumcision | Circumcision of newborns is a covered service. If medically necessary, non-newborn circumcision is covered. |
| Diet Instruction | Diet instruction performed by a physician is considered part of a routine visit. |
| Drugs | Non-injectable drugs must be billed by a pharmacy to be covered. Physicians who administer injectable drugs to their patients may bill Medicaid for the cost of the drug by using the procedure code designated by Medicaid for this purpose. |
| Examinations | Physician visits for examinations are counted as part of each recipient's benefit limit of 14 physician visits per year. Exception: Certified Emergencies. Annual routine physical examinations are not covered except through EPSDT. Refer to Appendix A, EPSDT, for details. Medical examinations for such reasons as insurance policy qualifications are not covered. Physical examinations for establishment of total and permanent disability status if considered medically necessary are covered. Medicaid requires a physician's visit once every 60 days for patients in a nursing facility. Patients in intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded must receive a complete physical examination at least annually. |
| Eyecare | Eye examinations by physicians are a Medicaid covered service. Physician visits for eyecare disease are counted as part of each recipient's benefit limit of 14 physician visits per year. |
| Foot Devices | See Chapter 14, Durable Medical Equipment (DME), for details |
| Gastric bypass | Covered with prior authorization |
| Hearing Aids | See Chapter 10, Audiology/Hearing Services, for details. |

| Service | Coverage and Conditions |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy | Topically applied oxygen is not hyperbaric and is not covered. HBO therapy should not be a replacement for other standard successful therapeutic measure. Medical necessity for the use of hyperbaric oxygen for more than two months must be prior approved (see Chapter 4, Obtaining Prior Authorization). Physician attendance should be billed using procedure code 99183. Prior approval for HBO for diagnoses not listed below or for treatments exceeding the limitations listed may be submitted to EDS for consideration on an individual recipient basis. Please note that no approval will be granted for diagnoses listed in the exclusion section. Program reimbursement for HBO therapy is limited to that which is administered in a chamber for the diagnoses found in Chapter 19 Hospital, under Outpatient Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBO). |
| Immunizations | <p>The Department of Public Health provides vaccines at no charge to Medicaid physicians enrolled in the Vaccines For Children (VFC) Program. Medicaid reimburses administration fees for vaccines provided free of charge through the Vaccines For Children (VFC) Program. Medicaid tracks usage of the vaccine through billing of the administration fee using the appropriate CPT-4 codes. Refer to Appendix A, EPSDT, for more information.</p> <p>The single antigen vaccines may be billed only when medically justified and prior authorized. These vaccines are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diphtheria • Measles • Mumps • Rubella <p>Payment for immunizations against communicable diseases for adults will be made if the physician normally charges his patients for this service.</p> |
| Infant Resuscitation | Newborn resuscitation (procedure code 99440) is a covered service when the baby's condition is life threatening and immediate resuscitation is necessary to restore and maintain life functions. Intubation, endotracheal, emergency procedure (procedure code 31500) cannot be billed in conjunction with newborn resuscitation. |
| Mammography Diagnostic | Diagnostic mammography is furnished to a man/woman with signs or symptoms of breast disease, or a personal history of breast cancer, or a personal history of biopsy-proven benign breast disease, and includes a physician's interpretation of the results of the procedure. Services are not limited. |
| Mammography Screening | Furnished to a woman without signs or symptoms of breast disease, for the purpose of early detection of breast cancer, and includes a physician's interpretation of the results of the procedures. Services are limited to one screening mammography every 12 months for women ages 50 through 64. |
| Medical Materials and Supplies | Costs for medical materials and supplies normally utilized during office visits or surgical procedures are to be considered part of the total fee for procedures performed by the physician and therefore are not generally a separately billable service. |

Deleted:
~~Procedure code (PC) 99183 can be billed by the outpatient facility only, using the appropriate evaluation and management codes if applicable.~~

Added:
using procedure code 99183.

| Service | Coverage and Conditions |
|---------------------------|---|
| Newborn Claims | <p>Five kinds of newborn care performed by physicians in the days after the child's birth when the mother is still in the hospital may be filed under the mother's name and number or the baby's name and number:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Routine newborn care (99431, 99433, and discharge codes 99238 or 99239) 2. Circumcision (54150 or 54160) 3. Newborn resuscitation (99440) 4. Standby services following a caesarian section or a high-risk vaginal delivery. (99360) 5. Attendance at delivery (when requested by delivering physician) and initial stabilization of newborn (99436) <p>Standby services (procedure code 99360) are covered only when the pediatrician, family practitioner, neonatologist, general practitioner, or non-delivering OB/GYN is on standby in the operating or delivery room during a caesarian section or a high-risk vaginal delivery. Attendance of the standby physician in the hospital operating or delivery room must be documented in the operating or delivery report.</p> <p>Use CPT codes when filing claims for these five kinds of care.</p> <p>If these services are billed under the mother's name and number and the infant(s) are twins, indicate Twin A or Twin B in Block 19 of the claim form.</p> <p>Any care other than routine newborn care for a well baby, before and after the mother leaves the hospital, must be billed under the child's name and number.</p> |
| Newborn Hearing Screening | <p>Inpatient newborn hearing screenings are considered an integral part of inpatient hospital services. Outpatient facility services for newborn hearing screenings are considered non-covered.</p> <p>Limited hearing screen codes 92586 and 92587 (CPT 2002) may be billed in an outpatient setting provided: 1) an infant was discharged prior to receiving the inpatient hearing screen, or 2) an infant was born outside a hospital or birthing center. These codes are reimbursable for audiologists, pediatricians, otolaryngologists, and EENT.</p> <p>Comprehensive hearing screen codes 92585/92588 may be billed for: 1) infants who fail the newborn hearing screening prior to discharge from the hospital, or 2) infants/children fail a hearing screening at any time following discharge. Comprehensive hearing screenings should be performed on infants by three months of age if they failed the newborn hearing screening prior to discharge. Code 92585 is reimbursable for otolaryngologists, audiologists, pediatricians, and EENT. Code 92588 is reimbursable for otolaryngologists, audiologists, pediatricians, EENT, and neurologists.</p> |
| Obstetrical Services | Refer to Section 28.2.10 |
| Oxygen and Compressed Gas | A physician's fee for administering oxygen or other compressed gas is a covered service under the Medicaid program. Oxygen therapy is a covered service based on medical necessity and requires prior authorization. Please refer to Chapter 14, DME, for more information. |
| Podiatrist Service | Covered for QMB or EPSDT referred services only. See Chapter 29, Podiatrist, for more details. |
| Post Surgical Visits | Post-surgical hospital or office visits for conditions directly related to major surgical procedures are covered by the surgical fee. Post-surgical visits cannot be billed separately the day of, or up to 62 days after surgery. |
| Prosthetic Devices | Internal prosthetic devices (e.g., Smith Peterson Nail or pacemaker) are a covered benefit. |

| Service | Coverage and Conditions |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Psychiatric Services | <p>Physician visits for psychiatric services are counted as part of each recipient's benefit limit of 14 physician visits per year.</p> <p>Psychiatric evaluation or testing are covered services under the Physicians' Program if services are rendered by a physician in person and are medically necessary. Psychiatric evaluations are limited to one per calendar year, per provider, per recipient.</p> <p>Psychotherapy visits are included in the office visit limit of 14 visits per calendar year. Office visits are not covered when billed in conjunction with psychotherapy codes.</p> <p>Psychiatric services under the Physicians' Program are confined to use with psychiatric diagnosis (290-319) and must be performed by a physician.</p> <p>Hospital visits are not covered when billed in conjunction with psychiatric therapy on the same day.</p> <p>For services rendered by psychologist, see Chapter 34 for details.</p> <p>Psychiatric day care is not a covered benefit under the Physicians' Program.</p> |
| Radiation Treatment Management | <p>Radiation treatment management services do not need to be furnished on consecutive days. Up to two units may be billed on the same date of service as long as there has been a separate break in therapy sessions.</p> |
| Second Opinions | <p>Physician visits for second opinions are counted as part of each recipient's benefit limit of 14 physician visits per year.</p> <p>Optional Surgery: Second opinions (regarding non-emergency surgery) are highly recommended in the Medicaid program when the recipients request them.</p> <p>Diagnostic Services: Payment may be made for covered diagnostic services deemed necessary by the second physician.</p> |
| Self-inflicted injuries | <p>Self-inflicted injuries are covered.</p> |
| Surgery | <p>Cosmetic surgery is covered only when prior approved for medical necessity. Examples of medical necessity include prompt repair of accidental injuries or improvement of the functioning of a malformed body member.</p> <p>Elective surgery is covered when medically necessary.</p> <p>Multiple surgeries are governed by the following rules:</p> <p>When multiple or bilateral surgical procedures that add significant time or complexity are performed at the same operative session, through the same incision or separate incisions in the same operative field, Medicaid pays for the procedure with the highest allowed amount and half of the allowed amount for each subsequent procedure. This also applies to laser surgical procedures. Additional payments will not be made for procedures considered to be mutually exclusive or incidental.</p> <p>Certain procedures are commonly carried out as integral parts of a total service and as such do not warrant a separate charge. When incidental procedures (e.g., excision of a previous scar or puncture of an ovarian cyst) are performed during the same operative session, Medicaid reimburses for the major procedure only.</p> <p>Laparotomy is covered when it is the only surgical procedure performed during the operative session or when performed with an unrelated or incidental surgical procedure. Surgeons performing laparoscopic procedures on recipients where a laparoscopic procedure code (PC) has not been established should bill the most descriptive PC with modifier 22 (unusual procedural services) until the new PC is established.</p> <p>Certain relatively small surgical procedure codes formally designated in the CPT with an (*) may be billed in addition to an office visit. Additionally, these codes do not carry the global surgical package concept of inclusion of post-operative care within 62 days of the surgery.. In the 2004 CPT guidelines the (*) designation has been removed. For reference, these codes are listed the Procedure Codes section in Chapter 28 of the Billing Manual.</p> |

Added:
Certain
relatively
small...
Chapter 28
of the Billing
Manual.

| Service | Coverage and Conditions |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Surgery, Breast Reconstruction | <p>Breast reconstruction surgery is reimbursable following a medically necessary mastectomy when performed for the removal of cancer. All reconstructive procedures require prior authorization. The term "reconstruction" shall include augmentation mammoplasty, reduction mammoplasty, and mastopexy. Breast reconstruction surgeries are governed by the following rules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reconstruction follows a medically necessary mastectomy for the removal of cancer • The recipient is eligible for Medicaid on the date of reconstruction surgery • The recipient elects reconstruction within two years of the mastectomy surgery • The diagnosis codes used are appropriate • The surgery is performed in the manner chosen by the patient and the physician in accordance with guidelines consistent with Medicare and other third party payers • For more information regarding prior authorization, please refer to Chapter 4 Obtaining Prior Authorization. For more information related to breast prosthesis, please refer to Chapter 14 Durable Medical Equipment. |
| Therapy | <p>Physician visits for therapy are counted as part of each recipient's benefit limit of 14 physician visits per year. See Rule No. 560-X-6-.14 for details about this benefit limit in the <i>Alabama Medicaid Agency Administrative Code</i>, Chapter 6.</p> <p>Physical Therapy is not covered when provided in a physician's office. Physical therapy is covered only when prescribed by a physician and provided in a hospital setting. Refer to Chapter 19, Hospital, for more information.</p> <p>Group Therapy is a covered service when a psychiatric diagnosis is present and the therapy is prescribed, performed, and billed by the physician personally. Group Therapy is not covered when performed by a caseworker, social services worker, mental health worker, or any counseling professional other than physician. Group Therapy is included in the physician visit limit of 14 visits per year.</p> <p>Speech Therapy for a speech related diagnosis, such as stroke (CVA) or partial laryngectomy, is a covered benefit when prescribed by and performed by a physician in his office. Speech therapy performed in an inpatient or outpatient hospital setting or in a nursing facility is a covered benefit, but is considered covered as part of the reimbursement made to the facility and should not be billed by the physician.</p> <p>Family Therapy is a covered service when a psychiatric diagnosis is present and the physician providing the service supplies documentation that justifies the medical necessity of the therapy for each family member. Family therapy is not covered unless the patient is present. Family Therapy is not covered when performed by a caseworker, social service worker, mental health worker, or any counseling professional other than a physician. Family Therapy is included in the physician visit limit of 14 visits per year.</p> |
| Transplants | See Chapter 19, Hospitals, for transplant coverage. |
| Ventilation Study | <p>Ventilation study is covered if done in physician's office by the physician or under the physician's direct supervision. Documentation in the medical record must contain all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graphic record • Total and timed vital capacity • Maximum breathing capacity <p>Always indicate if the studies were performed with or without a bronchodilator.</p> |

| Service | Coverage and Conditions |
|--------------------|---|
| Well Baby Coverage | Well baby coverage is covered only on the initial visit, which must be provided within eight weeks of the birth. When the well-baby checkup is done, the physician should bill procedure code 99432. Only one well-baby checkup can be paid per lifetime, per recipient. Refer to Appendix A, EPSDT, for information on additional preventive services. |

28.2.3 Non-covered Services

Deleted: NOTE

| Service | Coverage and Conditions |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Acupuncture | Acupuncture is not covered. |
| After Office Hours | The following services are not covered: After office hours, services provided in a location other than the physician's office, and office services provided on an emergency basis. |
| Autopsies | Autopsies are not covered. |
| Biofeedback | Biofeedback is not covered. |
| Blood Tests | Blood tests are not covered for marriage licenses. |
| Chiropractors | Chiropractic services are not covered, except for QMB recipients and for services referred directly as a result of an EPSDT screening. |
| Chromosomal Studies | Chromosomal studies (amniocentesis) on unborn children being considered for adoption are not covered. Medicaid can pay for these studies on prospective mothers in an effort to identify conditions that could result in the birth of an abnormal child. |
| Experimental Treatment or Surgery | Experimental treatment or surgery is not covered. |
| Filing Fees | Filing Fees are not covered. |
| Hypnosis | Hypnosis is not covered. |
| Laetrile Therapy | Laetrile therapy is not covered. |
| Oxygen and Compressed Gas | A physician's fee for administering oxygen or other compressed gas is a covered service under the Medicaid program; the cost of the oxygen or gas is not covered. |
| Post Surgical Visits | Post-surgical hospital or office visits for conditions directly related to major surgical procedures are covered by the surgical fee. Post-surgical visits cannot be billed separately one day prior to surgery or up to 62 days after surgery. Visits by Assistant Surgeon or Surgeons are not covered. |
| Preventive Medicine | Medicaid does not cover preventive medicine other than those specified elsewhere, including but not limited to, EPSDT screening. |
| Syntocin | Syntocin is not covered. |
| Telephone Consultations | Telephone consultations are not covered. |
| Therapy | Occupational and Recreational Therapies are not covered. |

28.2.4 *Limitations on Services*

Within each calendar year each recipient is limited to no more than a total of 14 physician visits in offices, hospital outpatient settings, nursing facilities, rural health clinics or Federally Qualified Health Centers. Visits not counted under this benefit limit will include, but not be limited to, visits for: EPSDT, prenatal care, postnatal care, and family planning. Physicians services provided in a hospital outpatient setting that have been certified as an emergency do not count against the physician benefit limit of 14 per calendar year. If a patient receives ancillary services in a doctor's office, by the physician or under his/her direct supervision, and the doctor submits a claim only for the ancillary services but not for the office visit, then the services provided will not be counted as a visit.

For further information regarding outpatient maintenance dialysis and ESRD, refer to Chapter 35, Renal Dialysis Facility.

A new patient office visit codes shall not be paid to the same physician or same group practice for a recipient more than once in a three-year period.

28.2.5 *Physician Services to Hospital Inpatients*

In addition to the 14 physician visits, Medicaid covers up to 16 inpatient dates of service per physician, per recipient, per calendar year. For purposes of this limitation, each specialty within a group or partnership is considered a single provider.

When filing claims for recipients enrolled in the Patient 1st Program, Chapter 39, Patient 1st, to determine whether your services require a referral from the Primary Medical Provider (PMP).

Physician hospital visits are limited to one visit per day, per recipient, per provider.

Physician(s) may bill for inpatient professional interpretation(s), when that interpretation serves as the official and final report documented in the patient's medical record. Professional interpretation may be billed in addition to a hospital visit if the rounding physician also is responsible for the documentation of the final report for the procedure in the patient's medical record. Professional interpretation may not be billed in addition to hospital visits if the provider reviews results in the medical record or unofficially interprets medical, laboratory, or radiology tests. Review and interpretation of such tests and results are included in the evaluation and management of the inpatient. Medicaid will cover either one hospital visit or professional interpretation(s) up to the allowed benefit limit for most services. Professional interpretations are allowed in the inpatient setting for the following services:

Echocardiography (i.e., M-mode, transthoracic, complete and follow up)

Echocardiography (i.e., 2D, transesophageal)

Echocardiography (i.e., Doppler pulsed or continuous wave with spectral display, complete and follow up)

Cardiac Catheterizations

Comprehensive electrophysiologic evaluations and follow up testing

Programmed stimulation and pacing

Intra-operative epicardial and endocardial pacing and mapping

Intracardiac catheter ablations; intracardiac echocardiography

Evaluation of cardiovascular function

Plethysmography, total body and tracing

Ambulatory blood pressure monitoring

Cerebrovascular arterial studies, extremity arterial studies, venous studies, and visceral and penile studies

Circadian respiratory pattern recording (i.e., pediatric pneumogram), infant

Needle electromyography

Ischemic limb exercise test

Assessment of aphasia

Developmental testing

Neurobehavioral status exam and neuropsychological testing battery

Professional interpretations for lab and x-ray (CPT code 70000 through 80000 services) in the inpatient setting can only be billed by pathologists and radiologists. The only exception is for professional interpretations by cardiologists for catheterization or arterial studies and for select laboratory procedures by oncologists and hematologists. Professional interpretations/components done by other physicians for services in this procedure code range are included in the hospital visit if one is done. If no hospital visit is made, professional interpretation by physicians other than radiologists, pathologists, oncologists, hematologists, and cardiologists should not be billed as these services are covered only for the above-mentioned specialties.

A physician hospital visit and hospital discharge shall not be paid to the same physician on the same day. If both are billed, only the discharge shall be paid.

Professional interpretations performed for an inpatient are counted by dates of service rather than the number of interpretation performed.

An office visit and an inpatient visit shall not be paid to the same physician on the same day. If both are billed, then the first Procedure Code billed will be paid.

28.2.6 Critical Care

When caring for a critically ill patient, for whom the constant attention of the physician is required, the appropriate critical care procedure code (99291 and 99292) must be billed. Critical care is considered a daily global inclusive of all services directly related to critical care. These codes can only be billed for a recipient age 25 months and older.

Coverage of critical care may total no more than four hours per day.

The actual time period spent in attendance at the patient's bedside or performing duties specifically related to that patient, irrespective of breaks in attendance, must be documented in the patient's medical record.

RESTRICTIONS:

No individual procedures related to critical care may be billed in addition to procedure codes 99291 and 99292, except:

- An EPSDT screening may be billed in lieu of the initial hospital care (P/C 99221, 99222, or 99223). If screening is billed, the initial hospital care cannot be billed.
- Procedure code 99082 (transportation or escort of patient) may also be billed with critical care (99291 and/or 99292). Only the attending physician may bill this service and critical care. Residents or nurses who escort a patient may not bill either service.

LIMITATIONS:

- Procedure codes 99291 and 99292 may be billed by the physician providing the care of the critically ill or injured patient in place of service 41, Ambulance, if care is personally rendered by the physician providing the care of the critically ill or injured patient.

28.2.7 Pediatric and Neonatal Critical Care

| CPT Code | Description | Criteria |
|----------|---|---|
| 99293 | Initial Pediatric Critical Care, 31 days through 24 months of age, per day, for the evaluation and management | Not valid for ages 30 days or less, can be billed by any physician provider type |
| 99294 | Subsequent Pediatric Critical Care, 31 days through 24 months of age, per day, for the evaluation and management of a critically ill infant or young child. | Not valid for ages 30 days or less, can be billed by any physician provider type |
| 99295 | Initial Neonatal Critical Care, per day for the evaluation and management of a critically ill neonate, 30 days of age or less | Not valid for ages 31 days or older, can be billed by any physician provider type |
| 99296 | Subsequent Neonatal Critical Care, per day for the evaluation and management of a critically ill neonate, 30 days of age or less | Not valid for ages 31 days or older, can be billed by any physician provider type |

The pediatric and neonatal critical care codes (99293-99296) include management, monitoring and treatment of the patient, including respiratory, pharmacological control of the circulatory system, enteral and parenteral nutrition, metabolic and hematologic maintenance, parent/family counseling, case management services and personal direct supervision of the health care team in the performance of their daily activities.

Routinely these codes may include any of the following services, therefore these services should not be billed separately from the critical care codes 99293-99296: umbilical venous or umbilical arterial catheters, central or peripheral vessel catheterization, other arterial catheters, oral or nasal gastric tube placement, endotracheal intubation, lumbar puncture, suprapubic bladder aspiration, bladder catheterization, initiation and management of mechanical ventilation or CPAP, surfactant administration, intravascular fluid administration,

transfusion of blood components (excluding exchange transfusions), vascular puncture, invasive or non-invasive electronic monitoring of vital signs, bedside pulmonary function testing, and/or monitoring or interpretation of blood gases or oxygen saturation.

The following criteria should be used as guidelines for the correct reporting of neonatal and pediatric critical care codes for the critically ill neonate/infant. Only one criterion is required to be classified as critically ill.

- Respiratory support by ventilator or CPAP
- Nitric oxide or ECMO
- Prostaglandin, Indotropin or Chronotropic or Insulin infusions
- NPO with IV fluids
- Acute Dialysis (renal or peritoneal)
- Weight less than 1,250 grams
- Acute respiratory distress in a pediatric admission requiring oxygen therapy with at least daily adjustment and FIO₂>35% oxygen by oxyhood.

RESTRICTIONS:

No individual procedures related to critical care may be billed in addition to procedure codes 99293-99296 except:

- Chest tube placement
- Pericardiocentesis or thoacentesis
- Intracranial taps
- Initial history and physical or EPSDT screen may be billed in conjunction with 99295. Both may not be billed. NOTE: One EPSDT screen for the hospitalization will encompass all diagnoses identified during the hospital stay for referral purposes.
- Standby (99360), resuscitation (99440), or attendance at delivery (99436) may be billed in addition to critical care. Only one of these codes may be billed in addition to neonatal intensive care critical care codes.

LIMITATIONS:

- Subsequent Hospital Care codes (99231-99233) cannot be billed on the same date of service as neonatal critical care codes (99293-99296)
- Only one unit of critical care can be billed per child per day in the same facility. Medicaid pays the first claim received and denies subsequent claims (first in, first out policy).
- Procedure codes (99293-99296) can only be billed in the NICU or ICU (Intensive Care Unit). If a recipient is readmitted to the NICU/ICU, the provider must be the primary physician in order for NICU critical care codes to be billed again.
- Once the patient is no longer considered by the attending physician to be critical, the Subsequent Hospital Care codes (99231-99233) should be billed. Only one unit can be billed per day per physician regardless of specialty. Medicaid pays the first claim received and denies subsequent claims (first in, first out policy).
- Transfers to the pediatric unit from the NICU cannot be billed using critical care codes. Subsequent hospital care would be billed in these instances.
- Global payments encompass all care and procedures that are included in the rate. Providers may not perform an EPSDT screen and refer to a partner or other physician to do procedures. All procedures that are included in the daily critical care rate, regardless of who performed them, are included in the global critical care code.
- Consultant care rendered to children for which the provider is not the primary attending physician must be billed using consultation codes. Appropriate procedures may be billed in addition to consultations. If, after the consultation the provider assumes total responsibility for care, critical care may be billed using the appropriate critical care codes as per the setting. The medical record must clearly indicate that the provider is assuming total responsibility for care of the patient and is the primary attending physician for the patient.

28.2.8 *Intensive (Non-Critical) Low Birth Weight Services*

| CPT Code | Description | Criteria |
|----------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 99298 | Subsequent intensive care, per day, for the evaluation and management of the recovering very low birth | May only be billed by a neonatologist |
| 99299 | Subsequent intensive care, per day, for the evaluation and management of the recovering very low birth weight infant (present body weight of 1500-2500 grams) | May only be billed by a neonatologist |

These codes are used to report care subsequent to the day of admission provided by a neonatologist directing the continuing intensive care of the very low birthweight infant who no longer meets the definition of being critically ill. Low

birthweight services are reported for neonates less than 2500 grams who do not meet the definition of critical care but continue to require intensive observation and frequent services and intervention only available in an intensive care setting. Services provided to these infants exceed those available in less intensive hospital areas of medical floors. These infants require intensive cardiac and respiratory monitoring, continuous and/or frequent vital signs monitoring, heat maintenance, enteral and/or parenteral nutritional adjustments, laboratory and oxygen monitoring and constant observation by the health care team under direct supervision.

RESTRICTIONS:

No individual procedures related to critical care may be billed in addition to procedure codes 99298-99299 except:

- Chest tube placement
- Pericardiocentesis or thoracentesis
- Intracranial taps

LIMITATIONS:

- Once the patient is no longer considered by the attending physician to be critical, the Subsequent Hospital Care codes (99231-99233) should be billed. Only one unit can be billed per day per physician regardless of specialty. Medicaid pays the first claim received and denies subsequent claims (first in, first out policy).
- Global payments encompass all care and procedures that are included in the rate. Providers may not perform an EPSDT screen and refer to a partner or other physician to do procedures. All procedures that are included in the daily critical care rate, regardless of who performed them, are included in the global critical care code.
- Consultant care rendered to children for which the provider is not the primary attending physician must be billed using consultation codes. Appropriate procedures may be billed in addition to consultations. If, after the consultation the provider assumes total responsibility for care, critical care may be billed using the appropriate critical care codes as per the setting. The medical record must clearly indicate that the provider is assuming total responsibility for care of the patient and is the primary attending physician for the patient.

28.2.9 *End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)*

Physician services rendered to each outpatient maintenance dialysis patient provided during a full month shall be billed on a monthly capitation basis using the appropriate procedure code by age as outlined in the CPT. Monthly maintenance dialysis payment (i.e., uninterrupted maintenance dialysis) is comprehensive and covers most of a physician's services whether a patient dialyzes at home or in an approved ESRD outpatient facility. Dialysis procedures are allowed in addition to the monthly maintenance dialysis payment. In general, the Agency follows Medicare guidelines related to monthly capitation payments for physicians.

Physician services included in the monthly capitation payment for ESRD related services include, but are not limited to:

- Assessment and determination of the need for outpatient chronic dialysis therapy
- Assessment and determination of the type of dialysis access and dialyzing cycle,
- Management of the dialysis visits including outpatient visits for evaluation and management, management during the dialysis, and telephone calls.
- Assessment and determination if a recipient meets preliminary criteria as a renal transplant candidate including discussions with family members
- Assessment for a specified diet and nutritional supplementation for the control of chronic renal failure, including specifying quantity of total protein, sodium, potassium, amount of fluids, types of anemia and appropriate treatments, type of arthropathy or neuropathy and appropriate treatment or referral, estimated ideal dry weight, etc. Assessment for diabetic patient's diet and caloric intake is included also.
- Prescribing the parameters of intradialytic management including anticoagulant, dialysis blood flow rates and temperature, duration and frequency of treatments, etc.

The monthly capitation payment is limited to once per month, per recipient, per provider.

The following services are not covered by the monthly capitation payment (MCP) for the attending dialysis physicians and are reimbursed in accordance with usual and customary charge rules:

- Declotting of shunts
- Covered physician services furnished to hospital inpatients by a physician who elects not to receive the MCP for these service, For example, an attending physician who provides evaluation and management (E & M) services for a renal patient in an inpatient setting may bill appropriate CPT hemodialysis procedures in lieu of certain other E & M services for ipatient visits.
- Nonrenal related physician services furnished by the physician providing renal care or by another physician. (These services may not be incidental to services furnished during a dialysis session or office visit necessitated by the renal condition.) For example, physician services rendered to hospitalized inpatient recipients who require dialysis but are not receiving dialysis on that day, may use the appropriate procedure code as described in the CPT.

Physician services are allowed for outpatient maintenance dialysis patients not performed as prescribed during a full month or interruptedly. An example of interrupted monthly outpatient dialysis maintenance is preceding and/or following the period of hospitalization.

The CPT codes described by age for physicians rendering outpatient dialysis services that are interrupted during a full month should be billed on a per day basis. These codes should be billed for the days of the month in which the outpatient ESRD related services were performed.

Single or repeated physician assessments are allowed for hemodialysis or dialysis procedures other than hemodialysis. These services are comprehensive and include assessment and management related to the patient's renal dialysis. Please utilize the most descriptive and appropriate CPT dialysis procedure when billing for single or repeated physician evaluation(s).

Dialysis training is a covered service when billed by an approved ESRD facility. Refer to Chapter 35, Renal Dialysis Facility, for further details.

28.2.10 *Anesthesiology*

Administration of anesthesia is a covered service when administered by or directed by a duly licensed physician for a medical procedure that is covered by Medicaid. Medical direction by an anesthesiologist of more than four Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) or Anesthesiology Assistants (AAs) concurrently will not be covered.

Administration of anesthesia by an AA is a covered service when the AA has met the qualifications and standards set forth in Rule No. 540-X-7-.34 of the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners. The AA must enroll and receive a provider number to bill the Alabama Medicaid Program. Refer to Chapter 38, Anesthesiology, for more information.

28.2.11 *Obstetrical and Related Services*

The following policy refers to maternity care billed as fee-for-service and not as a part of the Maternity Care program. Refer to Chapter 24, Maternity Care Program, for more details.

Physician visits for obstetrical care are counted as part of each recipient's benefit limit of 14 physician visits per year under the conditions listed below.

Maternity Care and Delivery

The services normally provided in maternity cases include antepartum care, delivery, and postpartum care. When a physician provides total obstetrical care, the procedure code which shall be filed on the claim form is the code for all-inclusive "global" care. The indicated date of service on "global" claims should be the date of delivery. If a woman is pregnant at the time she becomes eligible for Medicaid benefits, only those services provided during the time she is eligible will be covered.

NOTE:

When a physician provides eight (8) or more prenatal visits, performs the delivery, and provides the postpartum care, the physician must use a "global" obstetrical code in billing.

If a physician submits a "global" fee for maternity care and delivery, the visits covered by these codes are not counted against the recipient's limit of 14 physician office visits a calendar year. For purposes of "global" obstetrical billing, services rendered by members of a group practice are to be considered as services rendered by a single provider.

NOTE:

The date of service on the "global" OB claim must be the date of delivery.

Antepartum care includes all usual prenatal services such as initial office visit at which time pregnancy is diagnosed, initial and subsequent histories, physical examinations, blood pressure recordings, fetal heart tones, maternity counseling, etc.; therefore, additional claims for routine services should not be filed. Antepartum care also includes routine lab work (e.g., hemoglobin, hematocrit, chemical urinalysis, etc.); therefore, additional claims for routine lab work should not be filed.

To justify billing for global antepartum care services, physicians must utilize the CPT-4 antepartum care global codes (either 4-6 visits or 7 or more visits), as appropriate. Claims for antepartum care filed in this manner do not count against the recipient's limit of 14 office visits per year.

NOTE:

Physicians who provide less than four (4) visits for antepartum care must utilize CPT-4 codes under office medical services when billing for these services. These office visit codes will be counted against the recipient's limit of 14 physician visits a calendar year.

Billing for antepartum care services in addition to "global" care is not permissible. However, in cases of pregnancy complicated by toxemia, cardiac problems, diabetes, neurological problems or other conditions requiring additional or unusual services or hospitalization, claims for additional services may be filed. If the physician bills fragmented services in any case other than high-risk or complicated pregnancy and then bills a "global" code, the fragmented codes shall be recouped. Claims for such services involved in complicated or high risk pregnancies may be filed utilizing CPT codes for Office Medical Services. Claims for services involving complicated or high-risk pregnancies must indicate a diagnosis other than normal pregnancy and must be for services provided outside of scheduled antepartum visits. These claims for services shall be applied against the recipient's limit of 14 physician office visits a calendar year.

Delivery and Postpartum Care

Delivery shall include vaginal delivery (with or without episiotomy) or cesarean section delivery and all in-hospital postpartum care. More than one delivery fee may not be billed for a multiple birth (twins, triplets, etc.) delivery, regardless of delivery method(s). Delivery fees include all professional services related to the hospitalization and delivery which are provided by the physician; therefore, additional claims for physician's services in the hospital such as hospital admission, may not be filed in addition to a claim for delivery or a claim for "global" care.

EXCEPTION: When a physician's first and only encounter with the recipient is for delivery ("walk-in" patient) he may bill for a hospital admission (history and physical) in addition to delivery charges.

Postpartum care includes office visits following vaginal or cesarean section delivery for routine postpartum care within 62 days post delivery. Additional claims for routine visits during this time should not be filed.

Delivery Only

If the physician performs the delivery only, he must utilize the appropriate CPT-4 delivery only code (vaginal delivery only or C-section delivery only). More than one delivery fee may not be billed for a multiple birth (twins, triplets, etc.) delivery, regardless of the delivery method(s). Delivery fees include all professional services related to the hospitalization and delivery which are provided by the physician; therefore, additional claims for physician's services in the hospital such as hospital admission, may not be filed in addition to a claim for delivery only.

EXCEPTION: When a physician's first and only encounter with the recipient is for delivery ("walk-in" patient) he may bill for a hospital admission (history and physical) in addition to delivery charges.

Ultrasounds

Obstetrical ultrasounds are limited to two per pregnancy. For patients covered under the maternity care waiver, refer to Chapter 24, Maternity Care Program. Generally, first ultrasounds are conducted to detect gestational age, multiple pregnancies, and major malformations. Second ultrasounds may be conducted to detect fetal growth disorders (intrauterine growth retardation, macrosomia) and anomalies that would appear later or may have been unrecognizable in the earlier scan.

Additional ultrasounds may be **prior approved** by the Alabama Medicaid Agency if a patient's documented medical condition meet any of the following criteria:

- Gestational diabetes with complications (Type 1 diabetes, vascular disease, hypertension, elevated alpha-fetoprotein values, poor patient compliance)
- Failure to gain weight, evaluation of fetal growth
- Pregnancy-induced hypertension
- Vaginal bleeding of undetermined etiology
- Coexisting adnexal mass
- Abnormal amniotic fluid volume (polyhydramnios, oligohydramnios)
- Pregnant trauma patient
- Congenital diaphragmatic hernia (CDH)
- Monitoring for special tests such as fetoscopy, amniocentesis, or cervical cerclage placement
- Assist in operations performed on the fetus in the uterus

- Detection of fetal abnormalities with other indicators or risk factors (Low human chorionic gonadotrophin (HCG) and high-unconjugated estriol (uE3) are predictive of an increased risk for Trisomy 18. Echogenic bowel grades 2 and 3 are indicative of an increased risk of cystic fibrosis and Trisomy 21)
- Determination of fetal presentation
- Suspected multiple gestation, serial evaluation of fetal growth in multiple gestation
- Suspected hydatidiform mole
- Suspected fetal death
- Suspected uterine abnormality
- Suspected abrupt placenta
- Follow-up evaluation of placental location for identified placenta previa
- Maternity Care subcontractors should contact the Primary Contractor for information regarding obstetrical ultrasounds.

To determine if a procedure requires prior authorization, providers should use the AVRS line at EDS, 1-800-727-7848.

28.2.12 *Vaccines For Children (VFC)*

The Department of Public Health provides vaccines at no charge to Medicaid providers enrolled in the Vaccines For Children (VFC) Program as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization.

Medicaid reimburses administration fees for vaccines provided free of charge through the VFC Program. The rate for the administration fee is \$8.00; it is not the rate on the pricing file.

A VFC provider may or may not choose to become an enrolled Medicaid provider. Enrollment as a VFC provider or a Medicaid provider is independent of each other.

Refer to Appendix A, EPSDT, for procedure codes for VFC.

28.2.13 *Lab Services*

Physicians will not be paid for and should not submit claims for laboratory work done for them by independent laboratories or by hospital laboratories. Physicians may submit claims for laboratory work done by them in their own offices or own laboratory facilities. Physicians who send specimens to independent laboratories for analysis may bill a collection fee. This fee shall not be paid to any provider who has not actually extracted the specimen from the patient. Routine venipuncture for collection of laboratory specimens may be billed only when sending blood specimens to another site for analysis. The collection fee may not be billed if the lab work is done at the same site where the specimen was drawn.

NOTE:

A physician CANNOT bill the following pathology/laboratory procedure codes, however the above collection fee can be billed, if applicable:

82775 Galactose – 1 – phosphate uridyl transferase; quantitative
 83498 Hydroxyprogesterone, 17 – d
 84030 Phenylalanine (PKU) blood
 84437 Thyroxine; total requiring elution (e.g., neonatal)

28.2.14 Supply Code

The procedure code 99070 is utilized by physicians to bill for supplies and materials over and above those usually included with the office visit. Examples of supplies and materials over and beyond usual supplies include elastic wraps, disposable tubing for bronchial dilating equipment or post-operative dressing changes when no office visit is allowable.

28.3 Prior Authorization and Referral Requirements

Medical care and services that require prior authorization for in-state providers will continue to require prior authorization for out-of-state providers, e.g., organ transplants and select surgical procedures. Please refer to Chapter 4, Obtaining Prior Authorization for more information.

Unlisted services and procedure codes are not covered by the Alabama Medicaid Agency, with the exception of Medicare crossover claims and rare instances when approval is granted prior to service provision after the agency has determined that the service is covered and that no other procedure code exists for reimbursement.

28.4 Cost Sharing (Copayment)

The copayment amount for physician office visit (including crossovers, and optometric) is \$1.00 per visit. Copayment does not apply to services provided for pregnant women, nursing facility residents, recipients less than 18 years of age, emergencies, and family planning.

The provider may not deny services to any eligible Medicaid recipient because of the recipient's inability to pay the cost-sharing (copayment) amount imposed.

28.5 Completing the Claim Form

To enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Medicaid processing, providers should bill Medicaid claims electronically.

Physicians who bill Medicaid claims electronically receive the following benefits:

- Quicker claim processing turnaround
- Immediate claim correction
- Enhanced online adjustment functions
- Improved access to eligibility information

➤Electronic claims submission can save you time and money. The system alerts you to common errors and allows you to correct and resubmit claims online.

Refer to Appendix B, Electronic Media Claims Guidelines, for more information about electronic filing.

NOTE:

When filing a claim on paper, a HCFA-1500 claim form is required. Medicare-related claims must be filed using the Medical Medicaid/Medicare-related Claim Form.

This section describes program-specific claims information. Refer to Chapter 5, Filing Claims, for general claims filing information and instructions.

28.5.1 Time Limit for Filing Claims

Medicaid requires all claims for physicians to be filed within one year of the date of service. Refer to Section 5.1.5, Filing Limits, for more information regarding timely filing limits and exceptions.

28.5.2 Diagnosis Codes

The *International Classification of Diseases - 9th Revision - Clinical Modification* (ICD-9-CM) manual lists required diagnosis codes. These manuals may be obtained by contacting the American Medical Association, P.O. Box 10950, Chicago, IL 60610.

NOTE:

ICD-9 diagnosis codes must be listed to the highest number of digits possible (3, 4, or 5 digits). Do not use decimal points in the diagnosis code field.

28.5.3 Procedure Codes and Modifiers

Medicaid uses the HCFA Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS). HCPCS is composed of the following:

- American Medical Association's Current Procedural Terminology (CPT)
- Nationally assigned codes developed for Medicare
- Locally assigned codes issued by Medicaid. Effective for dates of service on or after 01/01/2004, use national codes.

The CPT manual lists most procedure codes required by Medicaid. This manual may be obtained by contacting the Order Department, American Medical Association, 515 North State Street, Chicago, IL 60610-9986. The (837) Professional electronic claim and the paper claim have been modified to accept up to four Procedure Code Modifiers.

NOTE:

Unlisted procedure codes are not covered by the Agency unless the provider requested and received approval for a prior authorization before the service is rendered. The Agency will deny all requests for payment of unlisted codes after the fact.

Specimen Collection Code**Pap Smear**

When sending a pap smear specimen to another site for analysis, use nonstandard code Q0091 when billing the collection of a pap smear.

Blood Specimens

When sending blood specimens to another site for analysis, use CPT Code 36415 or 36416 with modifier 90 to bill for the collection fee.

Physician-Employed Physician Assistants (PA) and Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners (CRNP)

Payment will be made only for physician drugs identified in Appendix H, Alabama Medicaid Physician Drug List, CPT codes identified in Appendix O, CRNP and PA Services, and laboratory services, which are CLIA certified. EPSDT screenings will be covered only if the provider is enrolled in that program. Refer to Appendix A, EPSDT, for EPSDT program requirements.

The Physician's Assistant or CRNP can make physician required inpatient visits to nursing facilities. However, physician required inpatient visits to hospitals or other institutional settings cannot be made by a PA or CRNP. Also, the PA or CRNP may provide low complexity or straightforward medical decision-making services in the emergency room or assist at surgery (identified surgical codes only) for Medicaid reimbursement.

Surgical Procedure Codes Not Included in Global Surgical Package

Certain relatively small surgical procedure codes formally designated in the CPT with an (*) may be billed in addition to an office visit. Additionally, these codes do not carry the global surgical package concept of inclusion of post-operative care within 62 days of the surgery. In the 2004 CPT guidelines the (*) designation has been removed. For reference, these codes are listed below the covered services section in Chapter 28 of the Billing Manual.

Added:
Surgical
Procedure
Codes Not
Included in
Global
Surgical
Package

Surgical Procedure Code Modifiers

When submitting claims for procedures done on the same date of service, a modifier is required to indicate that the repeated service is not a duplicate. If the **same** provider performs the repeat procedure, use modifier 76.

For repeat procedures done on the same date of service by a **different** provider, use modifier 77. Claims submitted for repeat procedures on the same date of service without modifiers are denied as duplicate services.

Modifier 59 should be used to indicate a separate distinct service. Do not confuse modifier 59 with modifiers for repeat procedures. Modifier 59 does not replace any existing modifiers.

Added:
Procedure
Codes Table

| Procedure Codes | | |
|-----------------|-------|-------|
| 10040 | 36000 | 58100 |
| 10060 | 36405 | 58300 |
| 10080 | 36406 | 58340 |
| 10120 | 36410 | 58350 |
| 10140 | 36415 | 59000 |
| 10160 | 36440 | 59020 |
| 11000 | 36470 | 59030 |
| 11200 | 36471 | 60000 |
| 11300 | 36488 | 61000 |
| 11305 | 36489 | 61001 |
| 11310 | 36490 | 61020 |
| 11730 | 36491 | 61026 |
| 11900 | 36510 | 61050 |
| 11901 | 36600 | 61055 |
| 12001 | 36660 | 61070 |
| 12002 | 38300 | 61105 |
| 12004 | 40800 | 61107 |
| 12011 | 40804 | 61210 |
| 12013 | 41000 | 62268 |
| 12031 | 41005 | 62269 |
| 12032 | 41250 | 62270 |
| 12041 | 41251 | 62272 |
| 12051 | 41252 | 62273 |
| 15786 | 41800 | 62280 |
| 16020 | 42000 | 62281 |
| 16025 | 42300 | 62282 |
| 17000 | 42310 | 62284 |
| 17110 | 42320 | 62290 |
| 17250 | 42400 | 62291 |
| 17260 | 42650 | 64400 |
| 17270 | 42660 | 64402 |
| 17280 | 42700 | 64405 |
| 17340 | 43450 | 64408 |
| 17360 | 43760 | 64410 |
| 17380 | 45900 | 64412 |
| 19000 | 45905 | 64413 |
| 19100 | 45915 | 64415 |
| 20000 | 46030 | 64417 |
| 20206 | 46050 | 64418 |
| 20500 | 46080 | 64420 |
| 20501 | 46320 | 64421 |
| 20520 | 46900 | 64425 |
| 20525 | 46910 | 64430 |
| 20550 | 47000 | 64435 |
| 20600 | 48102 | 64445 |
| 20605 | 49080 | 64450 |
| 20610 | 49081 | 64505 |
| 20650 | 49180 | 64508 |
| 20665 | 49400 | 64510 |

| Procedure Codes | | |
|-----------------|-------|-------|
| 20670 | 49420 | 64520 |
| 21100 | 50200 | 64530 |
| 21315 | 50390 | 65205 |
| 21355 | 50398 | 65210 |
| 23700 | 50688 | 65220 |
| 24640 | 51000 | 65222 |
| 27086 | 51005 | 65270 |
| 27256 | 51600 | 65410 |
| 27257 | 51700 | 65430 |
| 27275 | 51705 | 65435 |
| 27605 | 51710 | 65800 |
| 27860 | 53600 | 65805 |
| 28001 | 53601 | 66030 |
| 28002 | 53620 | 67500 |
| 28190 | 53621 | 67515 |
| 28630 | 53660 | 67700 |
| 28635 | 53661 | 67710 |
| 28660 | 54050 | 67715 |
| 28665 | 54055 | 67810 |
| 30000 | 54200 | 67820 |
| 30020 | 55000 | 67825 |
| 30200 | 55100 | 67840 |
| 30210 | 56405 | 67850 |
| 30300 | 56420 | 68135 |
| 30560 | 56605 | 68200 |
| 30801 | 56606 | 68440 |
| 30901 | 56720 | 68801 |
| 30903 | 57020 | 68810 |
| 30905 | 57100 | 68840 |
| 30906 | 57150 | 68850 |
| 31000 | 57160 | 69000 |
| 31002 | 57400 | 69020 |
| 32000 | 57410 | 69420 |
| 32400 | 57452 | 69421 |
| 32420 | 57454 | 69433 |
| 32960 | 57500 | |
| 33010 | 57511 | |
| 33011 | 57800 | |

| Modifier | Description |
|-----------------|---|
| 76 | Repeat Procedure By Same Physician. Modifier indicates a procedure of service is repeated by the same physician subsequent to the original service. This situation may be reported by adding modifier 76 to the five-digit procedure code. |
| 77 | Repeat Procedure By Another Physician modifier indicates that a basic procedure performed by another physician had to be repeated. This situation may be reported by adding modifier 77 to the five-digit procedure code. |
| 59 | Distinct procedural service modifier indicates that a crossover only service or procedure was distinct or separate from other services performed on the same day. This may represent a different session or patient encounter, different procedure or surgery, different site, separate lesion, or separate injury (or area of injury in extensive injuries). |

NOTE:

Modifier 59 is not to be used with Physician's Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes 99201-99499 or 77419-77430.

Professional and Technical Components

Some procedure codes in the 70000, 80000, 90000, and G series are a combination of a professional component and a technical component. Therefore, these codes may be billed one of three different ways; (1) as a global, (2) as a professional component, or (3) as a technical component. NOTE: Not all providers are allowed to bill any or all of the three ways to bill. Specific coverage questions should be addressed to the Provider Assistance Center.

- **Global**, the provider must own the equipment, pay the technician, review the results, and provide a written report of the findings. The procedure code is billed with no modifiers. The Global component should be billed only for the following place of service locations:
 - 11 (Office)
 - 81 (Independent Laboratory)
- **Professional component**, the provider does not own or operate the equipment. The provider reviews the results, and provides a written report of the findings. The Radiological professional component is billed by adding modifier 26 to the procedure code, and should be billed only for the following place of service locations:
 - 21 (inpatient hospital)
 - 22 (outpatient hospital)
 - 23 (emergency room - hospital)
 - 51 (inpatient psychiatric facility)
 - 61 (comprehensive inpatient rehab facility)
 - 62 (comprehensive outpatient rehab facility)
 - 65 (end-stage renal disease facility)
 - 81 (Independent Laboratory)
- **Technical component**, the provider must own the equipment, but does not review and document the results. The technical component charges are the facility's charges and are not billed separately by physicians. The technical component is billed by adding modifier TC to the procedure code. The technical component can only be billed by facilities.

Deleted:
99 (Other
Unlisted
Facility)

Deleted:
99 (Other
Unlisted
Facility)

28.5.4 Billing for Patient 1st Referred Service**NOTE:**

The Patient 1st Program is being terminated effective February 29, 2004. However, references to the Patient 1st Program will remain in the Provider Manual for claims processing purposes.

Added: NOTE

To bill for a service that requires a Patient 1st referral, the billing provider must have a valid signed referral form in the recipient's medical record. This form should contain the PMP's number to use for billing. If a service does not require a Patient 1st referral it is not necessary to get a referral from the PMP and it is not necessary to retain a referral form in the recipient's medical record.

A list of the Patient 1st services "requiring" and "not requiring" a written signed referral are listed in the Alabama Medicaid Provider Manual in Chapter 39 on pages 15 –18.

When billing for referred services the PMP name/nine digit number, and indicator must be reflected on either the HCFA-1500 (blocks 17, 17a, and 24H) by the specialty physician or on the UB-92 (block 2) if a hospital or outpatient clinic is providing the specialty services. If this field is not properly coded, Medicaid will reject the claim. (Refer to Chapters 5, Filing Claims, and 39, Patient 1st, of the Provider Manual for claim instructions).

If a service performed by the billing provider does not require a Patient 1st referral, do not enter the name of a referring physician and/or the nine digit PMP number on the HCFA-1500 (blocks 17 and 17a) or on the UB-92 Claim Form (block 2).

PMPs receive a monthly report listing all claims paid by Medicaid using their name and/or provider number as the referring provider. If the PMPs name and/or number are placed on the claim form even when the service did not require a referral, the claim will appear on the PMP's monthly report. If the PMP did not actually give the referral, the PMP will report back to Medicaid that their name and/or number was used on the claim without their authorization.

28.5.5 Place of Service Codes

The following place of service codes apply when filing claims for physicians:

| POS | Description |
|------------|--|
| 11 | Office |
| 12 | Home |
| 21 | Inpatient Hospital |
| 22 | Outpatient Hospital |
| 23 | Emergency Room - Hospital |
| 24 | Ambulatory Surgical Center |
| 25 | Birthing Center |
| 26 | Military Treatment Facility |
| 31 | Skilled Nursing Facility or Nursing Facility |
| 32 | Nursing Facility |
| 33 | Custodial Care Facility |
| 34 | Hospice |
| 41 | Ambulance - Land |
| 42 | Ambulance - Air or water |
| 51 | Inpatient Psychiatric Facility |
| 52 | Psy. Fac. Partial Hospitalization |
| 53 | Community Mental Health Center |
| 54 | Intermediate Care Fac./Mentally Retarded |
| 55 | Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Facility |
| 56 | Psychiatric Residential Treatment Center |
| 61 | Comprehensive Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility |
| 62 | Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility |
| 65 | End Stage Renal Disease Treatment Facility |

Deleted:
99

| POS | Description |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| 71 | State or Local Public Health Clinic |
| 72 | Rural Health Clinic |

28.5.6 Required Attachments

To enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Medicaid processing, your attachments should be limited to the following circumstances:

- Claims With Third Party Denials

NOTE:

When an attachment is required, a hard copy HCFA-1500 claim form must be submitted.

Refer to Section 5.7, Required Attachments, for more information on attachments.

28.5.7 Consent Forms Required Before Payments Can Be Made

NOTE:

EDS will NOT pay any claims to ANY provider until a correctly completed original of the appropriate form is on file at EDS.

Abortions

In accordance with federal law, abortions are covered only (1) if the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest; or (2) where a woman suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself, that would, as certified by a physician, place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed.

Please refer to Appendix E, Medicaid Forms, for a copy of the PHY-96-2 Certification and Documentation for Abortion form, which is used when the pregnancy is causing the life of the mother to be in danger. In the case of abortions performed secondary to pregnancies resulting from rape or incest, the documentation required is a letter from the recipient or provider certifying that the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest.

- The original copy of the PHY-96-2 form (for life of the mother in danger) signed by the attending physician, or the certification letter regarding rape or incest, and a copy of the medical records (history and physical, operative report and discharge summary) must be submitted to EDS.
- The second copy of the consent form or certification letter must be placed in the recipient's medical record.
- Copies of the consent form or certification letter may need to be provided to hospital, laboratory or other providers as applicable in order for them to submit billing for their services.

All claims relating to abortions must have the above-specified documentation on file at EDS prior to payment.

This documentation is not required when a recipient presents with a spontaneous abortion.

If the recipient does not qualify for payment by Medicaid and elects to have the abortion, providers may bill the recipient for the abortion as a non-covered service.

Sterilization

EDS must have on file the Medicaid-approved sterilization form. Refer to Appendix C, Family Planning, for more information.

Sterilization by Hysterectomy

Payment is not available for a hysterectomy if:

1. It was performed solely for the purpose of rendering an individual permanently incapable of reproducing
2. If there was more than one purpose to the procedure, it would not have been performed but for the purpose of rendering the individual permanently incapable of reproducing

Hysterectomy procedures performed for the sole purpose of rendering an individual incapable of reproducing are not covered under Medicaid.

Hysterectomies done as a medical necessity as treatment of disease can be paid for by the Medicaid funds under the physician's program.

NOTE:

Sterilization performed for the sole purpose of rendering a person permanently incapable of reproducing is not available to persons under twenty-one (21) years of age under the Medicaid Program.

Refer to Appendix E, Medicaid Forms, for a sample of the sterilization form.

Hysterectomy

The hysterectomy consent form was recently revised. The form was revised to include a section for unusual circumstances. Now this form can be used by a physician to certify a patient was already sterile when the hysterectomy was performed; a hysterectomy was performed under a life threatening situation; or a hysterectomy was performed under a period of retroactive Medicaid eligibility. In all of these circumstances, medical records must be forwarded to EDS along with the hysterectomy consent form and claim(s) in order for a State review to be performed.

NOTE: The **doctor's explanation** to the patient that the operation will make her sterile, and the **doctor's and recipient's signature** must precede the operation except in the case of medical emergency.

It is also important to note that certain fields on the hysterectomy consent form are non-correctable. The non-correctable fields include the recipient's signature and date of signed informed consent, the provider's signature and date of informed consent and the representative's signature and date of informed consent (if the recipient requires a representative to sign for them). If a non-correctable field is missing, contains invalid information or indicates the recipient/representative or physician signed after the date of surgery, EDS will deny the consent form.

EDS must have on file a Medicaid-approved Hysterectomy Consent Form. The revised hysterectomy consent form (form # PHY-81243) becomes effective January 1, 2004. Instructions for completing the consent form will be on the back of the consent form. See Appendix E, Medicaid Forms, or visit our website for a sample copy of this form.

Please note, only the surgeon should submit a hysterectomy consent form to EDS. All other providers should not request and submit copies of the consent form. Multiple copies slow down the consent form review and claims payment process.

Exceptions That Do Not Require Consent

If the following situations, the consent form is not required. If consent is not required, **the reason must be stated on the claim.**

1. The physician who performed the hysterectomy certifies in writing that the patient was already sterile when the hysterectomy was performed; the cause of sterility must be stated in this written statement.
2. The physician who performed the hysterectomy certifies in writing that the hysterectomy was performed under a life-threatening emergency situation in which prior acknowledgement was not possible. This written statement must include a description of the nature of the emergency.
3. The hysterectomy was performed during a period of retroactive Medicaid eligibility, and the physician who performed the hysterectomy submits, in lieu of the consent form, a written statement certifying that the individual was informed before the operation that the hysterectomy would make her sterile.

NOTE:

Medicaid payment cannot be made for any claims for services provided in connection with an abortion, a sterilization procedure or a hysterectomy for medical reasons unless an approved consent form is on file. Please be aware consent for sterilization is different from consent for hysterectomy. See Appendix M, Medicaid Forms, for examples of each.

28.6 For More Information

This section contains a cross-reference to other relevant sections in the manual.

| Resource | Where to Find It |
|---|------------------|
| HCFA-1500 Claim Filing Instructions | Section 5.2 |
| Medical Medicaid/Medicare-related Claim Filing Instructions | Section 5.6.1 |
| Anesthesiology | Chapter 38 |
| EPSDT | Appendix A |
| Electronic Media Claims (EMC) Submission Guidelines | Appendix B |
| Family Planning | Appendix C |
| Alabama Medicaid Injectable Drug List | Appendix H |
| AVRS Quick Reference Guide | Appendix L |
| Alabama Medicaid Contact Information | Appendix N |
| CRNP and PA Services | Appendix O |

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